



State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Main Phone: 602-542-4331
Facsimile: 602-542-7601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2012

CONTACT: Ann Dockendorff
(602) 542-7029
adockendorff@az.gov

National Report: Arizona #2 in Solar Energy Development *State among National Leaders in Solar Energy Development, Jobs*

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced that Arizona ranks second nationally in terms of solar system installation. That's according to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) report, "US Solar Market Insight: 2nd Quarter 2012."

With an increase in photovoltaic (PV) system installations over the past quarter – specifically, an impressive jump from 63 megawatts to 173 megawatts since the SEIA's March report – Arizona has edged out New Jersey to become the nation's second largest producer of renewable energy. Arizona climbed one spot in the SEIA national rankings since the first quarter of 2012, and now trails only California in terms of solar megawatt production.

"This is fantastic news, and further illustrates how Arizona has become a national leader in the development of solar power," said Governor Brewer. "This means not only clean, renewable energy, but also quality jobs for Arizonans. I am thrilled to see our great State at the forefront of this promising industry, and I look forward to Arizona further establishing itself as our nation's Solar Capital."

Nationally, photovoltaic installations have boomed, increasing 45% since March and 116% in the last year. Growth was particularly strong in terms of utility installations, as more than 20 projects were completed nationwide. In fact, according to the SEIA, this quarter was the most productive in the history of the U.S. market for utility installations – an achievement greatly credited to Arizona's very own Agua Caliente and Mesquite solar projects.

"Particularly in Arizona, where we are fortunate to enjoy an abundance of sunshine year-round, the success of this industry is a key asset to our economy," said Governor Brewer. "Not only does solar energy reduce our dependence on foreign oil, it also creates high-paying jobs for thousands of Arizonans."

In 2011, the State ranked 3rd-nationally with nearly 4,800 jobs in the solar energy field, according to the National Solar Jobs Census, issued in October by The Solar Foundation.

The full SEIA report can be viewed here: <http://www.slideshare.net/SEIA/us-solar-market-insight-report-q2-2012>.

###